2. In classifying tanks as major and minor, tanks with an atchkat of Rs. 100 and above may be classed as major in the malnad.

Reply of Government.—The whole subject is under consideration. This representation will be borne in mind.

SUBJECT No. 85.

Minor irrigation works.

Messrs. D. Venkataramaiya, Bangalore City Municipality; A. Ramanna, Yedatore Taluk; M. K. Krishnamurti, Magadi Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—In villages cattle and people feel water scarcity for at least four months in the year. This is due to the absence of a regular system of construction and restoration of minor works of irrigation. It is therefore proposed that the skill of our engineers may be utilized for bringing minor works of irrigation to an efficient condition. There is no inducement offered to the ryots to undertake the restoration of tanks. They are required either to do the earthwork or pay contribution but are charged with full assessment after the tank is restored. The capacity of most of the tanks to irrigate the lands dependent on them is decreasing as the tanks are not properly repaired. The principles upon which the Public Works Department authorities decide whether a work is remunerative or not are defective and it is not merely the immediate revenue return that should be taken into consideration in such cases, but the general increase of prosperity likely to result from a well-considered expansion of irrigation. The existing tanks may be put in order thoroughly and new works taken up according to a definite programme every year. The provision for expenditure on irrigation is now inadequate and should be increased, if necessary, by suitable retrenchments in other directions.

Reply of Government.—Noted. That a sufficient supply of water is not obtained from existing tanks and other works of irrigation is partly due to the neglect of the ryots and they should pay more attention to maintain them. Steps are being taken to improve the conditions of existing tanks and funds are being allotted as far as possible for execution of new works.

SUBJECT No. 86.

Sowdies to be appointed for tanks yielding Rs. 1,000 and above.

Mr. Shamiengar, Chamrajnagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Tanks are distinguished as major and minor, the former being those that yield an income of more than Rs. 300, while the latter are those that have an yield of Rs. 300 and below. But tanks under which there is an yield of Rs. 3,000 are supervised only by *manègars*, while others are left under the supervision of patels. This arrangement interferes much with the regulation of water-supply. It is therefore prayed that tanks yielding a revenue of Rs. 1,000 and above be kept under the supervision of sowdies, their pay being met from the acreage cess to be levied from the ryots holding lands under them.

The member referred to the tanks of Malegere, Sindegere and Bundgere in the Chamrajnagar Taluk and stated that the ryots were willing to pay a cess of 4 annas if Government would appoint sowdies for the distribution of water and take up the maintenance.

Reply of Government.—No general rule can be laid down. In cases where the ryots consider that such a course is necessary in their interest, they may submit a *mahazar* and apply for the levy of a cess.

SUBJECT No. 87.

Providing pipes and sluices to branch channels.

Mr. Venkoba Rao, Hole-Narsipur Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—According to the rules, repairs to branch channels are to be done by ryots alone. It is seen that in many instances a lot of water is taken by the holders of lands which are immediately below the point where the channel commences so that the lands which are at the tail end go without water. In order to regulate the supply of water properly, it is prayed that pipes or sluices may be provided to branch channels as is being done to main ones, the owners of the lands concerned bearing the cost of providing such pipes or sluices

Reply of Government.—This is done wherever it is found necessary and special instances in which more pipes and sluices are required for the distribution of water should be brought to the notice of the local authorities.

SUBJECT No. 88.

Clearing the silt in the main channels of major tanks.

Mr. A. Narasimhiengar, Sagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—At present only the major tanks are repaired by the Public Works Department and not main channels. As the ryots cannot repair these channels properly at their own cost, considering the heavy outlay required for the purpose, it is prayed that the Public Works Department may be ordered to put these channels in order and hand them over to the Revenue Department for being maintained under proper supervision.

Reply of Government.—To maintain the channels in proper condition is primarily the obligation of the ryots.

SUBJECT No. 89.

Weirs and bunds of tanks.

Mr. Ramanujiengar, Gubbi Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Most of the tanks in the State—small and large—were built long ago and their capacities have now diminished to an appreciable extent owing to the accumulated silt in them. The crops raised on the lands under them suffer for want of sufficient supply of water. In these circumstances, the waste weirs and the bunds of the tanks will have to be raised to ensure a sufficient supply of water to the lands under them. Appointing patels as Chairmen of the Tank Panchayets is not desirable. This may lead to abuses in the distribution of water as well as in the utilisation of grass growing on tank bunds and *pasavara.*

The duty of distributing water in the tanks to the lands under them should not be left in the hands of the village servants. It may be entrusted to the